

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a generally planar polymer component for use in a high pressure electrochemical cell; and
a non-conductive polymer composite band integrated with the polymer component and encircling a perimeter edge of the component, wherein the polymer composite band comprises polyamide reinforcing fibers mixed with a polymer binder.
- 2-5. (cancelled)
6. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the pressurized fluids press against the polymer component and the polymer component presses outward against the polymer composite band.
7. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the pressurized fluids impart a force against the polymer composite band that puts the polymer composite band in tension.
8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a plurality of generally planar polymer components and a plurality of polymer composite bands, each polymer composite band encircling one of the plurality of polymer components.
9. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a plurality of electrochemical cells and a plurality of the polymer composite bands, wherein each polymer composite band encircles a respective one of the plurality of electrochemical cells.
10. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a plurality of sub-stacks and a plurality of polymer composite bands, each polymer

composite band encircling one of the plurality of sub-stacks.

11-17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the polymer component comprises substantially the same polymer material as the polymer binder.

19. (new) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the generally planar polymer component comprises a gas barrier plate.

20. (new) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the gas barrier plate is electrically conducting.

21. (new) An apparatus, comprising:

a bipolar stack of electrochemical cells; and

a non-conducting polymer composite band integrated with and encircling a perimeter edge of the bipolar stack of electrochemical cells, wherein the polymer composite band comprises polyamide reinforcing fibers mixed with a polymer binder.

22. (new) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the bipolar stack of electrochemical cells comprises one or more gas barrier plates.